



An Open Letter to Marine Corps Installations Command



Marines, Sailors, civilian employees and host nation employees of Marine Corps Installations Command, I am honored to have the opportunity to lead this prestigious command and facilitate the continued maturation of its organizational construct. Together, we will enable our Corps' combat readiness and combat effectiveness by supporting the CONUS based Operating Forces and those Operating Forces forward deployed and forward based around the globe. Our efforts will serve to ensure that the Marine Corps is prepared to respond when called, ready to fight tonight, and ultimately carry the day as Marines have always done. Each of us must do our utmost to accomplish this task. This is our duty.

I view our mission essential tasks as follows: serve as the primary platform for training and installation support to the Operating Forces; ensure the safety and security of Marines, Sailors, and family members aboard our installations; ensure garrison quality of life support to Marines, Sailors and their families; and execute actions related to future basing initiatives in order to enable Operating Force combat readiness. As we go about our daily tasks, it is imperative that we remember that every action we take is for the individual Marine...the Private First Class (PFC)/Lance Corporal (LCPL) walking point in harm's way...and their family. It is essential that we conduct all actions required to ensure that the individual Marine is provided all resources necessary to execute his/her assigned mission. In doing so, we will face challenges. With budgetary constraints bearing down, we will be required to make hard decisions regarding installations and quality of life level of efforts. These decisions must be made in concert with our Operating Force partners. We have much to do in order to provide the Installation resources, training and operation support required for the Operating Force to successfully execute their assigned mission. As we strive to provide vital support necessary for their success in a period of declining fiscal resources, we must: operate as a team; stay current and relevant; operate without interruption; execute with a sense of urgency; and accomplish the mission that has been put before us. This team extends from the Deputy Commandant, Installations and Logistics through Marine Corps Installations Command to the Regional commands and individual bases/stations. Our future, the Marine Corps' future, and the lives of the Marines who will engage the enemy now and in future conflicts depend on our ability to provide support in the form of facilities, training areas and family resources in a manner that meets or exceeds Marine Corps senior leadership expectations.

Decisive and engaged leadership is required every day. There is a distinct difference between leaders and managers. Leaders lead people in the execution of tasks. Managers manage things and projects. As you carry out your duties, remember: Mission First, People Always. I charge each of you to take care of your people; ensure our workforce is informed, understands what is expected of them, have the training and resources they require, realize and operate to their full potential, and operate in a safe working environment. Our strength as a Marine Corps is our dedication to the team above self, a strength founded upon the diversity of background and culture. A work environment free from prejudice, inequality, inappropriate behavior, illegal activities, and reprisal is a bedrock of that strength. You must ensure we communicate and operate as a team, professionally, using fiscal discipline, and executing in the most expeditious manner. I expect you to lead with authority, integrity and humility.

You know our mission, you have my intent, and you know what I expect. I have had the opportunity to serve as a member of the Marine Corps Installations Command family for the past two years in the Asia-Pacific region. This is a superb organization of extremely talented people with a critical role in training and sustaining our expeditionary forces. I sincerely appreciate your efforts, day in and day out, and I thank you for your service to our country and our Marine Corps.

Semper Fidelis,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. L. Hudson".

C. L. HUDSON

Major General, U.S. Marine Corps,
Commander, Marine Corps Installations Command